

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2007, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

I. Summary of Office Action

Claims 1, 3, 13 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP No 0422774 to Ishikawa, in view of U.S. Patent 5,982,737 to Takagishi.

Claims 6 and 19 are allowed.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 9-11 and 14-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Analysis of Amendment

In this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1 by incorporating allowable claim 2. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 2 is canceled.

Claim 3 and 5 should be allowable at least due to their dependencies.

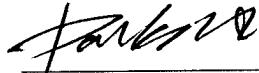
Applicant amends claim 7 by rewriting the claim in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 7.

Claim 9-11, 13-17 and 20-24 should be allowable at least due to their dependencies.

III. Conclusion

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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